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ABSTRACT

To enable vocational teachers and researchers to utilize the descriptors, indexes, and fiche of the ERIC system more efficiently, a self-instructional package was developed in 1971 and has since been revised. Methods used for developing the materials are described, along with the reasons for revision. The revisions are described and summarized. Supplementary materials to be added to the slide/tape also are listed. (SK)

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Final Report

Project No. 19-048-151-224

# SELF-INSTRUCTIONAL SLIDE/TAPE FOR ERIC USERS

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Learning Resources
University of Wisconsin--Stout

Menomonie, Wisconsin

June 30, 1974

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IR 003 266

Final Report

Project No. 19-048-151-224

# SELF-INSTRUCTIONAL SLIDE/TAPE FOR ERIC USERS

June 30, 1974

WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL
AND ADULT EDUCATION
Madison, Wisconsin

## Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### Summary

An increasing volume of relevant research is being generated throughout the United States by researchers working for a variety of agencies. Access to this information is essential to the efficient development of vocational, technical and adult education programs. However, the large volume of research being produced makes it difficult to identify the studies relevant to specific problems faced by vocational educators. This fact has been recognized through the establishment of ERIC.

The ERIC system provides the capability of retrieving relevant studies through the use of specific descriptors which define the content of each study. However, it has been found that utilization of these systems has not been as extensive nor as effective as anticipated. One of the problems has been that the ultimate user of the information, the vocational teacher and/or researcher, has not had the motivation, skills and equipment required to efficiently utilize the descriptors, indexes and fiche available.

The Learning Resources staff at UW - Stout has developed and refined, over the past several years, a self-instructional package on the use of ERIC. This proposal provides monies for revising the ERIC self-instructional package to make it applicable to vocational and technical schools, and for reproducing a copy of the package for each Wisconsin VTAE district.

### Statement of the Problem

In adapting the existing learning package for use in the VTAE districts, the problems were to alter the language and examples for greater pertinence to vocational curricula, to re-structure the presentation into several independent units based upon the needs of the viewer, and to ensure its usefulness in both individual and group situations.

Additional problems were to furnish the viewer with a handout for future reference, and to underscore a relationship between the use of ERIC and each local VTAE library.

## Statement of the Objectives

The following objectives were defined for the study:

1. To state the purpose of the ERIC system, identify its sponsor, and delineate its scope.

2. To emphasize the importance of the ERIC thesaurus and detail its use.

3. To sequence a standard search procedure and demonstrate a sample search.

4. To promote awareness of computer search availability.

5. To call attention to the vocational district librarian as a source of further help.

## Rationale

The proliferation of research materials and the vast changes in the field of vocational education in the last decade have made it difficult for instructors and administrators to learn about all the research relevant even to their own area.

The various ERIC indexes and growing microfiche collections have done much to provide access to this research. However, lack of familiarity with the scope and capabilities of ERIC are still felt to be hampering the efforts of many staff members of the 17 VTAE districts in Wisconsin toward identifying research studies relevant to their specific problems.

A slide-tape presentation produced at UW - Stout has been used since 1971 to orient its staff and students to the scope and use of the various ERIC indexes.

Since this package had already been tested it was felt that, with modification, it could be helpful in motivating and educating the VTAE district staff members also.

## Chapter 2

### Methods used in the study

Since the basis of this proposal was the original ERIC slide-tape set, much of it had been previously tested at UW - Stout since 1971.

Class assignments following the original presentation have included a section requesting feedback on user reaction, problems encountered, etc. Based upon these comments several modifications have been made.

In adapting the slide-set for this VTAE proposal frequent consultations were made with the director of the center for Vocational, Technical and Adult Education at UW - Stout.

Evaluation and technical advice was also received from staff members at Wisconsin VTAE districts 1 and 17, as well as from Ray Tally, Educational Data Coordinator of Wisconsin Information Retrieval for Education at Madison.

In addition, Richard Schwartz, of the Center for Studies in Vocational and Technical Education at Madison came to UW - Stout, viewed the set while the revision was in progress, and made suggestions.

## Chapter 3

### Results

Original plans for an instructional package to explain the use of ERIC to students and faculty were developed at UW - Stout in 1970. Several existing films and slide sets produced elsewhere had been previously examined but were found inadequate. Subsequently a slide-tape set was written and produced. Developmental costs were assumed by UW - Stout. Use of this set, with modifications, has been constant since 1971.

The following revisions of the original ERIC slide-tape set were made under terms of the present proposal:

1. References to physical locations and facilities at UW - Stout Pierce Library were removed.

2. Illustrations selected from the ERIC thesaurus and indexes to demonstrate sample searches were modified to relate them more closely to courses offered at the vocational level.

3. One slide was removed because some viewers found it offensive.

4. The set was structured into units to accommodate:

    a. Viewers familiar with ERIC and desiring only a quick review.

    b. Those familiar with the purpose and scope and desiring instruction in using the Thesaurus and indexes.

    c. Those viewers needing a complete orientation to the ERIC system.

5. Provisions were made for each district to insert slides of their local library, in order to lend immediacy to the presentation.

In addition, many of the original slides were re-shot, and other similar technical improvements made.

Upon completion of the set, one copy was reproduced for delivery to each Wisconsin VTAE district. In its present form, the ERIC package will be equally appropriate for use with group presentations or to be viewed individually, and will include:

Script
Narration on audio cassette
Slides
"Suggestions for Use" - an instructional sheet.
"Worksheet" -- a master from which individual handouts can be duplicated locally.